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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT: Albert K. Chin  
APPLICATION NO.: 09/635,345  
FILING DATE: August 9, 2000  
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Subxiphoid Endoscopic Access  
EXAMINER: Thomas C. Barrett  
GROUP ART UNIT: 3738  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 80121-07179

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date shown below:

Dated: 12/15/03

By:

Albert C. Smith, Reg. No.: 20,355

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO CONFORM AMENDMENTS  
TO CLAIMS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.121

Sir:

This submission is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed December 3, 2003 indicating non-compliant amendments to the claims as

set forth in the Supplemental Amendment filed November 17, 2003 in the patent application identified above.

The corrected portion of the amendment to the claims is re-submitted herewith with the proper status identifiers.